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## **California Wing Policy Letter 20**

**Subject: Badges**

### **Background**

Since the terrorist attacks of 11 September 2001, local law enforcement and national defense agencies have been on heightened alert to identify potential terrorist activity. Federal, state and local laws have been implemented to prevent terrorists from using commonly recognized uniforms and other symbols of authority to gain access to sensitive locations and potential terrorist “soft targets”. Unauthorized use of badges, uniforms, identification cards, vehicle light bars and other identification to access restricted locations, mislead the public or to imply authority not otherwise vested in the individual is often a violation of these laws and may subject the unauthorized user to arrest, prosecution and incarceration. Local law enforcement officers have been instructed that their first option is to make arrests on probable cause for violations of these laws with further investigation subsequent to the arrest.

### **References:**

California Penal Code Sections 529.5; and 538d through 538g.

### **Policy**

Any member of California Wing while engaged in any official CAP activity, whether in or out of uniform, may wear, exhibit or otherwise possess badges, identification cards and other insignia only as authorized by CAP Manual 39-1 as supplemented and CAP Manual 39-2. Presentation of a current CAP membership card and a government issued photo identification such as a California driver license should be sufficient identification for access to areas otherwise restricted to the general public. Use of any unauthorized badge or other identification to gain access to restricted areas will be considered cause for disciplinary action.

VIRGINIA M. NELSON, Colonel, CAP  
Commander